

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claim 1 and ADD claim 14 in accordance with the following:

1. (currently amended) A method for assuring quality of service of connections between at least two subregions in a packet-oriented network, where connection paths between subregions have prescribed transmission system resources, said method comprising:

storing for access by a resource manager arranged in the packet-oriented network -

associated information relating to address ranges of the subregions, routes through the subregions, each from a source subregion to a destination subregion, and

the transmission system resources between the subregions;

signaling a requested scope of resources and source and destination addresses to the resource manager, when a connection is initialized;

ascertaining in the resource manager ~~the-a~~ route through the network; and

checking whether the connection to be initialized is authorized ~~based-on-in~~ consideration of the requested scope of resources and the transmission system resources between the subregions of the route.

2. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising reserving the transmission system resources for an initialized connection in the subregions included in an ascertained route.

3. (original) The method as recited in claim 1,

wherein the subregions of the network are subdivided into further subregions, and

wherein said method further comprises allocating to each of the further subregions a portion of the transmission system resources of at least one connection path between the subregions.

4. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the packet-oriented network is the Internet or an access network for the Internet.

5. (original) The method as recited in claim 4, wherein the address ranges of the subregions are represented by subranges of an Internet address.

6. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said storing for access by the resource manager includes storing a table for the routes with each entry for a route including -
an item of information relating to the source subregion,
an item of information relating to the destination subregion,
information relating to the subregions situated in between the source and destination subregions, and

information relating to the connection paths arranged between the subregions of the respective routes.

7. (original) The method as recited in claim 1,
wherein the prescribed transmission system resources between the subregions are subdivided into prescribed transmission system partial resources for specific services, and
wherein said checking includes determining authorization for an initialized connection associated with a specific service based on at least one partial resource for the specific service.

8. (original) The method as recited in claim 1,
further comprising obtaining in the resource manager a sum of the transmission system resources requested by the connection to be initialized and authorized for each connection path between the subregions, and
wherein said checking does not result in authorization of an initialized connection having requested transmission system resources exceeding available transmission system resources of a connection path along the ascertained route, based on the sum of transmission system resources.

9. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising signaling one of authorization and nonauthorization to a terminal initializing the connection.

10. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising determining available transmission system resources using at least one of bandwidth information and a number of connections having prescribed bandwidth information.

11. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising prescribing the transmission system resources for each connection path which together form the prescribed transmission system resources when there are a plurality of connection paths between the subregions.

12. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising allocating different transmission priorities to the address ranges.

13. (original) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising assuring the quality of service of the connections in at least one of the subregions for at least one other subregion.

14. (new) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein said storing and checking do not include resources within subregions.